

REMARKS

By this Reply, no amendments to the claims have been made. Accordingly, claims 1-40 remain pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by this Reply.

In the final Office Action mailed on November 17, 2003, claims 1-28 and 33-40 were finally rejected. On February 17, 2004, Applicants submitted an After Final Amendment including amendments to claims 1, 34, 35, and 37. These amendments were not entered with the Advisory Action mailed on March 11, 2004. On April 19, 2004, Applicants submitted an Appeal Brief including a claim appendix that included the amendments made in the After Final Amendment. Applicants received another Advisory Action on July 14, 2004, confirming that amendments from the After Final Amendment were not entered by the Examiner. In addition, Applicants received a Notification of Non-Compliance, also mailed on July 14, 2004, stating that the Appeal Brief was defective because the claims in the claim appendix included amendments made in the After Final Amendment that were not entered. The Notification of Non-Compliance requested that Applicants resubmit an Appeal Brief with the correct listing of claims, and that Appeal Brief was submitted by Applicants on August 5, 2004. The outstanding Office Action was mailed on February 13, 2006 with an Office Action Summary indicating that the Office Action was responsive to the Appeal Brief submitted on August 5, 2004.

In the outstanding Office Action, the finality of the rejection was withdrawn. According to MPEP § 706.07(e), when a final rejection is withdrawn, all amendments filed after the final rejection are ordinarily entered. Thus, upon withdrawal of the final

rejection, the amendments submitted in the After Final Amendment dated February 17, 2004 should have been entered and considered by the Examiner. However, review of the outstanding Office Action indicates that the amendments submitted in the After Final Amendment were not considered and/or entered by the Examiner. For example, on pages 2 and 3 of the outstanding Office Action, a listing of limitations from claim 1 is provided. However, the listing does not include "hosting a manufacturer's web site and a plurality of dealer web sites," which was added to claim 1 by the After Final Amendment. Furthermore, the outstanding Office Action also omits limitations added by the After Final Amendment to claims 34, 35, and 37. Finally, the outstanding Office Action fails to address the arguments presented in the After Final Amendment and does not identify the After Final Amendment in the Office Action summary.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a new non-final Office Action addressing those claims previously presented in the After Final Amendment. This request is consistent with the course of action suggested by the Examiner in a telephone conversation between the Examiner and Applicants' representative on April 12, 2006.

Further, Applicants incorporate herein the arguments for patentability set forth in the After Final Amendment. Applicants believe this is a fully responsive reply, and that responding to the outstanding Office Action's rejections in greater detail would be inappropriate in light of the fact that those rejections are directed towards an incorrect version of the claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

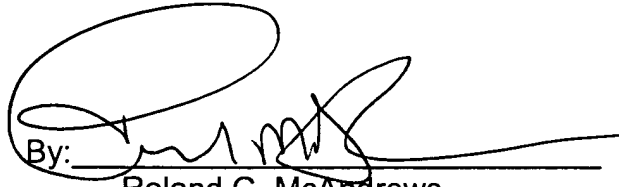
Customer No. 22,852
Application No.: 09/648,656

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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